



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Acknowledging the Success of the National Internship and Job Placement Program**

On November 19th, the National Internship and Job Placement Program (NJIP), supported by the USAID Competitiveness Project, held an event to honor the companies that support the program by engaging interns as well as those that retain them for employment. Over 60 companies that are actively involved in the Program were invited to the event and 20 of them were recognized for their outstanding support and effort.

"Looking for a job is a job in itself. You can not wait for the job, you have to create it. You have to use every single opportunity and an internship is the best one," says Bojan Popovski, an intern who was employed at Global Net.

A key element of the NJIP is the [www.mycareer.com.mk](http://www.mycareer.com.mk) portal, launched in February 2009 with the goal of enabling completion of over 500 structured and organized internships this year, with at least half leading to permanent employment. The portal is available in three languages (Macedonian, Albanian and English), and open to all users. To date, over 3500 students and 200 companies have registered at the portal. Some 460 students have successfully secured internships, and 62 of these have been retained for full employment.

To attract foreign investment and foster the growth and competitiveness of Macedonian companies, it is crucial to have an employable workforce available. The USAID Competitiveness Project works to assist Macedonia in developing a skilled workforce that meets the needs of growing industries.

"Human Capital is a very important asset for improving the market performance of any company. To compete in regional and international markets requires having the best and most talented work force," said Mike Fritz, USAID Mission Director.

"The internship, for the companies, represents one of the best ways to find the best talent, a resource in which the company will invest" said Iskra Trajkoska, a mentor of Next Sense.

Companies that will be honored at the event include: Ohridska Banka, Tutunska Banka, EVN, Cosmofon, VIP, Advert SMS, Roboteka ATTE, Next Sense, Poli Proekt Engineering, among others.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.